

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-18 (Canceled)

19. (currently amended) An address notification method comprising, upon receiving a query about an address of a first apparatus from a second apparatus, sending a query about the address of the first apparatus to a third apparatus[[,]];

conducting a connection test with the first apparatus using the address of the first apparatus obtained from the third apparatus; and

notifying the second apparatus of the address of the first apparatus obtained from the third apparatus,

wherein before a result of the connection test has been obtained, the second apparatus is notified of, as an expiration time of the address of the first apparatus, [[an]] a first expiration time shorter than the expiration time of the address of the first apparatus that is obtained from the third apparatus together with the address of the first apparatus, and

wherein after an affirmative result of the connection test has been obtained, the second apparatus is notified of, as an expiration time of the address of the first apparatus, a second expiration time based on the expiration time of the address of the first apparatus that is obtained from the third apparatus together with the address of the first apparatus.

20. (cancelled).

21. (currently amended) The address notification method according to Claim [[20]] 19, wherein ~~in the test step~~, a connection test with the first apparatus is conducted using a protocol corresponding to the address of the first apparatus.

22. (currently amended) A computer readable medium embodying a computer program stored in a memory, wherein the computer program comprising, upon receiving a query

about an address of a first apparatus from a second apparatus, sending a query about the address of the first apparatus to a third apparatus[[,]];

conducting a connection test with the first apparatus using the address of the first apparatus obtained from the third apparatus; and

notifying the second apparatus of the address of the first apparatus obtained from the third apparatus,

wherein before a result of the connection test has been obtained, the second apparatus is notified of, as an expiration time of the address of the first apparatus, [[an]] a first expiration time shorter than the expiration time of the address of the first apparatus that is obtained from the third apparatus together with the address of the first apparatus, and

wherein after an affirmative result of the connection test has been obtained, the second apparatus is notified of, as an expiration time of the address of the first apparatus, a second expiration time based on the expiration time of the address of the first apparatus that is obtained from the third apparatus together with the address of the first apparatus.

23. (cancelled).

24. (currently amended) The computer readable medium embodying a computer program stored in a memory according to Claim [[23]] 22, wherein ~~in the test step~~, a connection test with the first apparatus is conducted using a protocol corresponding to the address of the first apparatus.

25. (currently amended) An address notification apparatus comprising:
connecting means for connecting a network; and

notifying means for notifying a second apparatus of an address of a first apparatus upon reception of a query about the address of the first apparatus from the second apparatus via the network connected by the connecting means,

wherein the notifying means sends a query about the address of the first apparatus to a third apparatus, and before a result of the connection test has been obtained notifies the second apparatus of, as an expiration time of the address of the first apparatus, [[an]] a first expiration time shorter than the expiration time of the address of the first apparatus that is obtained from the third apparatus together with the address of the first apparatus, and

wherein after an affirmative result of the connection test has been obtained, the second apparatus is notified of, as an expiration time of the address of the first apparatus, a second expiration time based on the expiration time of the address of the first apparatus that is obtained from the third apparatus together with the address of the first apparatus.

26. (cancelled).

27. (currently amended) The address notification apparatus according to Claim [[26]] 25, wherein the notifying means conducts a connection test with the first apparatus using a protocol corresponding to the address of the first apparatus.